


BILL NYE'S INDIAN HISTORY

He Relates Some of the Events That Culminated in the Battle of Tippecanoe.

Facts by Other People and Fancies by Himself
—Prophet, the One Eyed Chief—Tecumseh,
the Lawrence Barrett of the Pawnees.



Visiting Ohio, recently, and especially Piqua, the birth-place of a Pawnee chief prophet, I have concluded to arrive some-



of the memories and old war reminiscences of the old battle of Tippecanoe, calling to my aid the retentive memory of the historian and my own febrile imagination. Historical facts are of themselves like the wire foundation of a beautiful bonnet—naked; they are destitute of beauty, but decorate them with the gorgeous word-painting of a heaven-born genius, and they become the beautiful Easter bonnets of literature.

Fortunately for me, at the time of my visit, I came across a little volume issued during the present year by Mr. Reed Beard, a young man of twenty-seven years of age, who is totally blind. It is called the "Battle of Tippecanoe," and as I felt that I had certainly seen as much of the battle as he had, I began critically to read his work, and if I found that his view of the engagement agreed with mine, I thought I would

give the book a reading notice in our paper. Aside from the very trifling error, perhaps, on page 15, where the name of the author, Chittenden, is the title of Indiana, as utilized by Mr. Longfellow, whereas it was the Delaware or Sioux used in "Hiawatha." I have found no historical holes in his narrative, and, with great pleasure, I allude to the book as a most interesting and valuable. The eyes and a pair of people glasses might well be proud, and a blind man even more so.

It was in 1831 that the firm of Prophet & Brother went into the general slaughter and skinning business, and the attention to one and all, to merit the public patronage and give general satisfaction. Prophet and his brother Tecumseh were descendants from Georgia stock and thoroughly well bred, and they were not only having a good deal of work

for centuries. Like all well-bred people who cannot bear the odor of honest perspiration, they began early to give their attention to crime. Satan, who aims to supply little jobs of suicide, homicide and germs for idle hands to do, and who has maintained his reputation all the way down from Eve to Ward McAllister, read the sign of Prophet & Brother, and made arrangements with them to handle Ohio, Indiana and Illinois in his interests.

Lord would provide. He united what may be called the High Church and Horse Chestnut Schools of Theology, viz.: He combined the unimpassioned and geometrical style of religion with the deep, abiding faith which enables a low-browed horse-chestnut to make a stubborn case of rheumatism go away from the chest.

Prophet had been nicknamed Loud Voice because of his ability to test the acoustical properties of Ohio. He could address an open-air meeting as far as the eye could reach.

He was also inclined to be a little bit arbitrary, and when anybody found fault with him he would say, "I am not a prophet, but I am a loud voice."

generally noticed right away that something was the matter with his longevity. A great many people saved their lives by being in rapport with the Prophet.

The brothers, or Messrs. Prophet & Tecumseh, were opposed by a chief named Black Hoof. He did not prophesy at all, but called to his aid what has been referred to by Plutarch as horse sense. By

this means he saw at once that it was a mistake for the Indian to go to war with the white man, and especially without the indorsement of the press. Black Hoof lived to be 110 years old, and would have lived much longer, no doubt, had he not changed his heavy underwear in March for a lighter suit which he found on a clothes line one evening on the banks of the Auglaize river in Ohio. They were not quite dry.

In 1807 the Prophet and Tecumseh gathered several hundred of their followers together, and, in obedience to a command from the Great Spirit, located on some land which they had ceded to the white people in 1795. The people of Ohio and Indiana could not brook this. It was at this time

that the Ohio men and the Indiana men went to Washington to protect their interests, a habit which they have never been able to entirely overcome.

Tecumseh, from an old Photograph.

him to death prophesying. Tecumseh was the original Tall Sycamore of the Wabash. He spoke with great fluency, and when a big tripe or glittering banquet was given by his people, he would always go and pay for his meal by means of a few desultory remarks.

Tecumseh had a kind of Lawrence Barrett style of declamation which endeared him to all hearts and caused him to hold himself in the very highest esteem. Elevating his voice and the price of admission to their full height, he would declaim in stentorian tones which made one forget

all his other woes. He spoke without notes, and could think of a great many things which did not actually exist. Putting his thumb in his girdle and rocking back on his pastern joints, he would look at the proscenium box on the right, and walking L. U. E., like a man who gets but

To Arms! The Greek! The Greek!"

Brannigan, therefore, was the first to introduce what may be called the Larry Brannigan style of acting, in which pathos is marked by pulling out the tremolo of the vox humana to its full extent, while on